

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.12 No. 05 - May, 2004

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HOBBIES

What are hobbies anyway? OK, they are a way to relax and do something you like to do. What I find with many others, and myself is that most hobbies involve learning and Ham Radio is certainly one those hobbies that involves learning.

I suppose that the first interest I had with ham radio started with radio itself. The idea of receiving radio stations with a crystal radio. How can this be? How can 4 parts mounted on a piece of wood and some headphones receive radio stations? Electronic things like radios have lots of special things and cannot be understood, but the crystal radio with 4 parts must be understandable, even by an 11 year old. Well, that started it with me. Thinking-back, I recall thinking of radio and electronics as a branch of the study of nature. I remember reading some ARRL books that explained the things like layers in the ionosphere, sunspot cycles and the effect they would have on transmitted signals, totally fascinating! I began building various electronic projects from articles in books. Some projects were successful, some were not. I really did not have much of a technical understanding of many of the projects at first, but I understood later that I still learned a lot of things anyway. I also found that I learned much more by actually doing something. When I would try to do something, I would have a question and consult various books for an answer. Books finally had more importance to me (an important milestone to a 12 year old that didn't like to read much).

My hobbies have been good for me. Most of the foundation for the knowledge that I apply in my professional life has

direct roots in my hobbies as a child. I suppose now, you could say that children that play with computers are doing something similar, as a knowledge in computers is vital for so many jobs these days. But, I feel that computers alone are not a complete answer for a child's hobby. I have two sons, age 11 and 15. One thing that is important in most hobbies is sharing the experience with others. Young people are very social animals, and they will participate in almost anything that involves interaction with their own kind. If I discuss Amateur Radio with young people, a few will show some genuine interest, but usually will not pursue the hobby. Why? There are probably many answers to that question, but the one I have heard most of all is that they don't know anyone their own age practicing the hobby. I have heard this from my own sons and their friends.

I think that we are all aware that amateur radio needs more young people to enter the hobby. How do we get young people involved? I have been puzzling over this question for some time. I had a situation recently when a friend of my son's was over for a visit. There was a storm approaching and the local news was predicting some serious weather in the area. A conversation about the coming storm began, and I mentioned where some hail and severe winds had been reported in some nearby towns. I was asked how I knew this. I mentioned that I had been listening to some weather reports on the area 2 meter repeaters. I explained that some of the information that the Weather Service receives is from amateur radio operators. I explained that some Ham operators go to periodic training classes to become volunteer Severe

MRAC Officers

President (262) 789-5333

Kevin Reemes KC9BZU

Vice Pres. (262) 548-6138

Brian White K9LCQ

Secretary (414) 529-2512

Tom Schulte AB9EK

Treasurer (414) 762-0396

Joe Schwarz N9UX

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA

('03-'05) (414) 344-4694

Tom Fuszard KF9PU

('02-'04) (262) 789-7975

Mark Tellier AB9CD

('02-'04) (414) 357-6522

Jerry Wahlen WA9CGE

('03-'05) (414) 463-8667

Dick Wood W9JBE

('03-'05) (262) 542-5118

HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA

pancho@thepark.net

(414) 344-4694

HamateurChatter Emailings and database

Joe Schwarz N9UX

(414) 762-0396

Regular Mailings

Dick Wood W9JBE

(262) 542-5118

Club/VEC Phone no. is

(262) 332-MRAC or

(262) 332-6722

Visit our website at:

[http://www.qsl.net/
mrac/](http://www.qsl.net/mrac/)

Address correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

or w9rh@arrl.net

continued on Pg

MILWAUKEE AREA NETS

DAY TIME MHz ACTIVITY

Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
hu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri.	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEUR CHATTER

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December and are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Prez. letter cont.

Weather Spotters. As I was explaining this, I noticed that I had this young person's undivided attention! This young man had expressed some interest in the past, but it seemed something might have gone a bit further this particular afternoon. I might also add that he left my home that evening with a current Technician Class study guide. Let's all hope for this one.

As you can gather from reading this, I have not been too successful at recruiting new hams, but I will not give up! I think it is a very worthwhile and diverse hobby. The situation of today is much different today than it was back in the '60s and I can't expect my sons or any other young person to

necessarily see the hobby the same way that I did back then. One of my problems is that I am not so "in touch" with the interests of young folks as I would like to think, and I am also not involved in all aspects of Ham Radio. This is something I have to work on, and I would like to ask your help.

I would be very interested in any recent involvement **any of you** may have had with young folks and Ham Radio that resulted in some young person acquiring a License. I would also be interested if you know any Hams age 17 or under and can find out what part of Amateur Radio interests them the most.

Maybe you have a story about how a young person got involved in ham

radio that you can have published in the Chatter?

Most of all, I would like to ask everyone to keep on the lookout for potential young ams. The future of amateur radio depends on it!

73'

Kevin - KC9BZU

Questions or Comments to:
reemefam@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 29, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Brian, K9LCQ the club's vice president. The microphone was passed for introductions. Tonight's guest speaker is Don Michalski, W9IXG our ARRL section manager.

Tom, AB9EK, read the minutes from the March membership meeting. A motion was made by Bill W9WCF and seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Joe, N9UX, gave the treasurer's report for April. A motion was made by Don, KZ9W and seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA to approve the report as given. Motion passed.

Jerry, WA9CGE, reported on the upcoming Field Day, June 26th and 27th. Jerry stated that we will operate on 80 through 10 meters and 6 meters. We will have trap dipoles for the bands. We will not operate on 2 meters and 70cm since these bands have not had much activity on them over the past years during Field Day. The club's picnic will be held at the Field Day site, Pioneer Village, on Saturday afternoon June 26th. Everyone is invited to attend.

The club's by-laws have been updated and can be found on the club's web page. Mark, AB9CD, stated that the changes that the Board made were mostly grammar and punctuation changes. Mark, AB9CD made a motion to approve the by-laws as presented by the Board. The motion was seconded by Les, AB9EY. Motion passed.

Dave, WB9BWP chairman of the nominating committee, spoke about the club's upcoming elections in May. Dave's committee consisted of Sherm, KB9Q, and Jack, W9ULA. Dave gave a short explanation on the duties of the Directors and club Officers. We need to elect two Directors and four Officers. The following have been nominated for Director: D.J. KC9AYO, Hal New-

ton, KB9OZN, Dave Griffin, KB9PRF and Joe Sturmberg, KA9OFZ. The following have been nominated for club office:

Treasurer Mark Tellier AB9CD, Secretary Tom Schulte AB9EK, Vice President Howard Parks AB9FH and President, NONE. WE NEED SOMEONE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT. A motion was made by Pancho KA9OFA and seconded by D.J. to keep the nominations open until the May meeting. Motion passed. Nominations for officers will be accepted at the May meeting.

The club's auction is in May, so bring in your surplus equipment and make some money for yourself and the club. The club has some surplus equipment that it would like to sell at the auction. This equipment consists of a printer, scanner and a portable generator. Brian asked for a show of hands to sell off these items at the auction in May. The club approved the sale of this equipment.

The question on the attendance sheet asked if the club should continue to have meetings in July and August. Brian asked for a show of hands to continue to hold meetings in July and August. The majority wants to continue meetings during the summer months.

John, KF9XL, stated that there will be VE testing on May 28th at AES. John stated that the General Class test will change on July 1st. The new question pool has been out for some time. There will be a test session at the end of July. John asked the membership if they thought that there should be a testing session during the week instead of just the fourth Saturday of the month. The testing session might be held during the club meeting. A show of hands was asked for and the majority said no. John stated that there had been some inquiries on the subject.

Pancho stated that Jack Krause, W9JK is in the St. Clements nursing home, Bluemound and Highway 100 across from the zoo, and is having problems with his computer. Be sure to chat with him when you hear him on the air.

Brian stated that he would clarify in the May 'Chatter his article that was in the April chatter in an article in the May chatter.

A question was asked if a membership renewal form could be placed on the club web page. Mark will get a PDF file to Howard so that he can put this on the web page.

A question was asked about the club holding a Technician Class any time soon. Mark stated that there have been some inquiries on the subject and a class would be 6-8 weeks long. Mark stated that an Extra Class would be taught starting sometime in September.

Warren, K9IZV, summarized the responses to the question on the attendance sheet: 30 yes to continue meetings in July and August, 4 no, 6 no answer, 5 questionable and 2 maybe.

A motion was made by Tom, WI9TOM and seconded by Mark, AB9CD to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm. Meeting adjourned.

Tonight's program is on wire antennas provided by Don Michalski, W9IXG. Everyone in attendance tonight received a ticket for some prizes that were provided by Don, including an antenna book and repeater directories.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Schulte, AB9EK
Club Secretary

THE FIGHT AGAINST BPL

The subject of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) has been a hot topic around Amateur circles. As you know, the ARRL has been fighting it since the beginning when the FCC announced the Notice of Inquiry, NOI, in April 2003. Over 5100 comments against BPL resulted from the NOI- to no avail. Since then, funds to support the fight have been coming into the League from individuals and clubs. The ARRL is very appreciative of the support from the members! Ed Hare has been out in the field doing interference checks in the test sites. The video and audio field tests are available on the ARRL BPL website. It is very alarming!

Review this site for more BPL information: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

Despite our concerns, the FCC has moved ahead with the Notice of Proposed Rule Making, NPRM. The NPRM proposes rules concerning BPL systems (ET Docket No. 03-104) and a possible amendment of Part 15 rules regarding new requirements and measurement guidelines for BPL (ET Docket No. 04-37). The NPRM is 38 pages long and requests comments on 12 issues on how best to implement this technology while still protecting the licensed services (such as amateur radio). This document does not provide any avenue for complaining about the technology. The FCC has decided it is technically feasible and wants input on how to best provide this service to the public. They propose to hold the Part 15 emission limits at the current levels in order to protect

(they think) the other licensed services. Comments to ET Docket No 04-37 are due by May 3. Go to the Wisconsin site <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI> for details on how to respond to the NPRM.

On April 27, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, came out with its long-awaited findings on interference to Federal services. <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2004/bpl/index.html> In phase one of the investigation, the NTIA apparently is concerned about interference and the tendency that measured output powers will be underestimated and under-reported. While they are concerned about some potential interference, they feel the BPL industry should be able to mitigate and/or notch out those frequencies with only a 6 percent hit on the HF BPL spectrum. NTIA's Phase 2 study will assess the interference risks due to aggregation and ionospheric propagation of interfering signals from BPL systems, refine and apply BPL deployment models, and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed Part 15 measurement techniques.

FEMA has already backed off from complaining about the technology. And, recently, the President has pressed for BPL to provide broadband service to all homes by 2007.

The ARRL has just instituted a Grass Roots Initiative (GRI), a program to fight BPL through the doors of Congress. Details can be found on this website: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/cta/> It is important for radio

amateurs to get the facts across to the White House as well as to our Congressional Representatives and Senators. Whether amateurs will respond in sufficient numbers to make enough noise remains to be seen. Frankly, I have my doubts based on the fact that less than 5000 amateurs responded to the NOI.

There is a superior BPL technology that utilizes microwaves. The Corridor System claims to provide cheaper, better, higher speed Internet service than the HF BPL systems that we are concerned about. <http://www.corridor.biz/news.htm> Tests have shown that the Corridor System doesn't interfere with amateurs operating HF and we won't interfere with BPL. If BPL must happen, then we can only hope that the industry will migrate to this superior technology.

So, that is where we are currently. As of this writing, there doesn't seem to be anything preventing the BPL train from plowing ahead. You may comment to the NPRM before May 3 and reply to comments by June 1. However, I feel the die is cast and BPL will happen unless there is pressure put on the FCC from the Congress to stop it. I invite you to take part in the GRI. It might be our only hope.

73,

Don - W9IXG

Wisconsin Section Manager

W9ixg@arrl.org

LAST ON ELECTIONS:

Last on This Series

Bear with me for the last on my series on MRAC elections. Sherm - KB9Q, Jack - W9ULA, and I have been the nominating committee for this year's elections. The nominating committee's job is to make sure there is at least one person running for each open position.

After enough prodding and shaming, we did get a couple of people to offer to run. After the March meeting Howard Parks - AB9FH and Hal Newton KB9OZN offered to run for director. After more whining at the April meeting, I got Howard to change his mind and run for Vice President, Joe Sturmberg, KA9DFZ and Dave Griffen KB9PRF said they would go for director. Sounds like there may even be need for a **real election** for director (3 names for 2 posts). Of course, since our President has been out of the country for some time, I don't know if we have anyone running for President. Maybe whoever gets the most votes in the director election will get to be President.

First Timers

All those new people who offered to run are all first timers at the board. That's good; we need more new people both as club members and as officers. The same people can't keep doing the jobs forever (as much as you may like). As part of the nominating committee I wish to thank all who offered to run. That shows that you care.

Next Year

Next year 3 directors are up for election. It seems to be easier to get people to run for director. I don't really know why. Other than the Treasurer handling the money, the Secretary taking meeting minutes, and the President running the meeting all basic jobs are the same (**and pay the same**). The board handles the business of the club.

Board meetings are held monthly just a few days prior to regular meetings. The business part of the regular meetings typically lasts 30 minutes or less (usually much less) because the board takes care of the business. We don't have 4 - 5-hour regular meetings.

What IS this Business?

What is this business? Finances, meeting logistics, Christmas Party, Field Day, the newsletter you are reading, insurance, legalities, PR, license classes, VEC and testing, repeater, telephone, P.O. Box, ARRL issues, etc. Things like that.

87 Years of Operation

The club has been in continuous operation for over 87 years — more than almost any other club, anywhere. That did not happen because no one wanted to help run the club. Think about the coming election and future elections too.

And B. B. B. W9BWP

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

PROGRAMS

May

The May program will be the **Election of Officers** and our **Annual Auction**.

If you have suggestions of programs for our meetings, please talk to one or more of our officers and/or our board members.

June?

Field Day Info, etc.

Stay tuned for further details



FIELD DAY - W9RH JUNE 26 & 27, 2004

QUESTIONS? - QUESTIONS? - QUESTIONS?

- Have YOU ever setup a HAM station, antennas, or operating positions?
- Have YOU ever operated a HAM station on the HF and VHF/UHF frequencies?
- Have YOU ever been to the M.R.A.C. summer picnic?
- Have YOU ever operated, or wanted to operate, your own equipment on Field Day?
- Have YOU ever operated (or tried to operate) in a contest?

If your answer is YES or NO, to any of the above, why don't you take some time and come to the M.R.A.C. Field day operation at Pioneer Village in Ozaukee County?

Our Field Day site will **start** setting up antennas, etc., on **Saturday, June 26, at 8:00 A.M.** We will start operating at 1:00 P.M. and continue through to 1:00 P.M., Those who participate or asst us on Saturday are welcome to join us for lunch that afternoon.

Basically, you can take County Hwy I north from Cedarburg approximately 10 miles to Pioneer Village.



Jerry, WA9CGE

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP	WA9CGE	W9IXG
KC9BZU	AB9EK	KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to Dick Wood for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped and mailed and to Mark Tellier who Emails it.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Special thanks to Matt Karshna for help with resolving several challenges dealing with the production of the 'Chatter.

Thank YOU!

REMINDER

Check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

The **Ten Meter SSB** net is at **8:30 PM** on **28.490 Mhz. SSB**

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at **9:00 PM** on our repeater @ **145.390 MHz** with a **- offset** and a **PL of 127.3 Hz**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at **8:00 AM**, and **order** around **8:15 AM**. Good food and Fellowship are a given.

EVENTS

* = VE Testing

May MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - May 27, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Princeton HamFest & Computer Show
JUNE 6, 2004
Bureau co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955- 103.5 PL

Six meter Club of Chicago *
HamFest
SUN. - JUNE 13, 2004
DuPage Co Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL
T/I on 146.52 or 146.37/97 Hz PL 107. HZ

MRAC Field Day
SAT & SUN - JUNE 26 & 27
Pioneer Village
Cedarburg, WI

SMARC Swapfest
SAT. - JULY 10, 2004
American Legion Post 434
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 simp.

Circus City SwapFest *
SAT. - AUG. 14, 2004
SAUK CO FAIRGROUNDS
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 147.315 + rpt. PL 123.0 Hz

Radio Expo 2004 *
SAT. & SUN - SEP. 18 & 19, 2004
Lake Co Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL)



Peoria SuperFest
FRI. - SUN. - SEP. 17 - 19, 2004
Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075(-)

Fox Cities SwapFest *
SUN. - NOV. 7, 2004
Waverly Beach
Menasha, WI

WARAC Midwinter SwapFest *
SAT. - JAN. 8, 2005
Waukesha Co Expo Center Forum
Waukesha, WI

'CHATTER DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

VEC News

MRAC VEC held VE testing on April 24, 2004 at AES. There were 12 candidates, and 11 succeeded in either qualifying for their initial license or in upgrading. Seventeen exam elements were given, and 16 were passed.

VE's who helped out at the session included the following:

Tom Czaja	KG9EE
Tom Fuszard	KF9PU
Bob Immekus	W9CYI
John Kraak	KF9XL
Dick McNew	WB9PTC
Patrick Moretti	W9UQ
Hal Newton	KB9OZN
Sherm Swanson	KB9Q
Mark Tellier	AB9CD

Our next test session is May 29, 2004 at AES. **Please remember** that those individuals who have been studying the EL-3 question pool and wish to take the General class (EL-3) exam have only a few opportunities

left, because the EL-3 question pool changes as of **July 1, 2004**. MARC's last exam date using exams based on the old question pool will be **Saturday, May 29, 2004**.

73

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL

VEC TESTING

- **Sat. - May 29, 2004**
9:30 AM @ AES

**AES = Amateur
Electronic Supply**

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

The **next Meeting of M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday - May 27, 2004**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the South entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please don't call the church.

The program for the
May 27th MRAC
general meeting
will be

Annual Auction by
Dave - WB9BWP
AND
Election of Officers



M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695